

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, 20, and 28-30 as indicated.

Please cancel Claims 9, 12, 15-19, 22-27, 32 and 33, without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

1. (Currently Amended) A program controller apparatus arranged for use with a modular system, and the program controller apparatus comprising:
a memory to store:
a history of use of a hardware module of the modular system, the stored history including a list of backplanes that have used the hardware module, the hardware module being a customer-replaceable part; and
an agreement between a supplier and a customer; and
arranged to manage a program a program manager for use with a replaceable the hardware module of the modular system, ~~the module being a customer-replaceable part, the controller apparatus being arranged to manage the program manager automatically managing a~~ program executable by the hardware module, the managing being according to [[an]] the agreement ~~between a supplier and a customer, the agreement having terms stored within the program controller apparatus, and according to [[a]] the~~ stored history of use of the hardware module.
2. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, at least part of the history being ~~stored on~~ obtained from the hardware module.
3. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1 ~~arranged to be~~ wherein the program manager is part of a shelf controller for managing modules in the form of cards for carrying out functions of a network element for a telecommunications network.

4. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, the program ~~controller being arranged to determine~~ manager determining an identity of the modular system and ~~check it is determining whether the program is~~ authorized for use with that system.
5. (Original) The program controller of Claim 1, the history comprising a program identifier of a program previously loaded on the module.
6. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, the history comprising a ~~license~~ license identifier of a program previously loaded on the module.
7. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, ~~arranged to be the program manager being~~ located remotely from the modular system, and ~~being~~ coupled to the modular system by a communications link.
8. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, ~~arranged to maintain the program manager maintaining~~ an inventory record of identities and relationships of modules, programs, and license information for a given customer.
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, wherein the ~~controller program manager~~ copies at least a part of the program to the module at initialization.
11. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, wherein the ~~controller program manager~~ authorizes at least a part of the program for the module at initialization.
12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, the program having ~~license~~ license information indicating a capability licensed, the program ~~controller~~ manager being arranged to configure the program according to the capability licensed.

14. (Original) The program controller of Claim 1, the program having license information indicating license expiry information.

15-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A modular system comprising:
one or more hardware modules; and
a memory storing a history of use of a hardware module, the stored history including a list of backplanes that have used the hardware module; and
a program controller, arranged for use with the modular system, and arranged to manage a program for use with a replaceable hardware module of the modular system, the hardware module being a customer-replaceable part, the controller being arranged to manage the program automatically, according to an agreement between a supplier and a customer, and according to ~~[[a]]~~ the stored history of use of the hardware module.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, having an interface for coupling to a remote server to pass information for a supplier to maintain an inventory of programs and modules.

22-27. (Cancelled.)

28. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a program controller apparatus of managing a program that operates upon a replaceable hardware module of a modular system, the module being a customer-replaceable part, the method having the steps of accessing, from a memory, a stored history of use of the hardware module, the stored history including a list of

backplanes that have used the hardware module, and controlling the program automatically, according to the history and according to an agreement between a supplier and a customer.

29. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for managing a program for use with a replaceable hardware module of a modular system, the module being a customer-replaceable part, the apparatus having:

a memory, the memory storing a history of the hardware module, the stored history including a list of backplanes that have used the hardware module;

~~means for~~ a processor, the processor accessing a stored history of use of the hardware module, and means for managing the program automatically, according to the history and according to an agreement between a supplier and a customer.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer program embedded in a computer readable non-transitory storage medium, the computer program operating upon a replaceable hardware module of a modular system, the module being a customer-replaceable part, the computer program performing the steps of accessing from a memory a stored history of use of the hardware module, the stored history including a list of backplanes that have used the hardware module, and controlling the program automatically, according to the history and according to an agreement between a supplier and a customer.

31. (Original) A method of offering a communications service over a network using the system of Claim 20.

32-33. (Cancelled.)